

SCHEDULE OF RECORDS FOI 2019-12739

| Document No | Brief description and date of record | Decision: Grant/Part Grant/Refuse | Exemptions: Section of Act | Reasons for Exemptions <i>*See note below</i> | Public Interest Considerations <i>** See note below</i> |
|-------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 1 | Internal DEASP Email, R Sen to C Lawler, 03.07.2018 | Grant | | | |
| 2, 3 | Internal DEASP Email, D Henry to C Lawler, attaching 'Budget Proposal - DPA rates', 05.07.2018 | Grant | | | |
| 4, 5 | Internal DEASP Email, C Lawler to J Crawford, attaching 'Budget 2019 Options List - 11.07.18', 16.07.2018 | Grant Email. Part Grant Attachment | Text outside the scope of the Request has been redacted or not provided. | | |
| 6, 7, 8 | Internal DEASP Email, C Lawler to J Crawford, attaching 'Budget 2019 Options List - 17.09.18' and 'Illustrative Budget package 17.09.18', 17.09.2018 | Part Grant | Text outside the scope of the Request has been redacted or not provided. | | |
| 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 | Internal DEASP Emails between D Henry, C Lawler, D Shanley, 25-27.09.2018 | Grant | | | |
| 14, 15, 16, 17 | Emails between D Henry, DEASP, and B Merriman, Department of Justice & Equality, 25-26.09.2018 | Part Grant | Section 29(1) Deliberations of Public Bodies Section 30(1)(b)(c) Functions and Negotiations of FOI Bodies | | |
| 18 | Internal DEASP Email, D Henry to D Shanley & J Conlon, 27.09.2018 | Part Grant | Section 29(1) Deliberations of Public Bodies Section 30(1)(b)(c) Functions and Negotiations of FOI Bodies | | |
| 19, 20 | Internal DEASP email, C Lawler to D Duffy, attaching 'Budget 2019 package 27.09.18', 27.09.2018 | Part Grant | Text outside the scope of the Request has been redacted. | | |
| 21, 22 | Internal DEASP email, C Lawler to J Crawford, attaching 'Budget 2019 - various dates - 28.09.18', 28.09.2018 | Grant Email. Part Grant Attachment | Text outside the scope of the Request has been redacted. | | |
| 23, 24, 25 | Internal DEASP email, R Sen to D Henry, attaching 'Budget 2019 - template for DAE' and 'Budget 2019 - DAE rate', 01.10.2018 | Part Grant | Text outside the scope of the Request has been redacted. | | |
| 26, 27 | Internal DEASP email, C Lawler to J McKeown and D Shanley, attaching 'Budget 2019 package 03.10.18 revised - B3', 03.10.2018 | Part Grant | Text outside the scope of the Request has been redacted or not provided. | | |
| 28, 29 | Internal DEASP email, C Lawler to D Duffy, attaching 'Budget 2019 package C1', 03.10.2018 | Part Grant | Text outside the scope of the Request has been redacted. | | |
| 30, 31 | Internal DEASP email, C Lawler to D Duffy, attaching 'Budget 2019 package C2', 04.10.2018 | Part Grant | Text outside the scope of the Request has been redacted. | | |
| 32, 33 | Internal DEASP email, D Henry to R Sen, attaching 'Budget 2019 Proposal - DEA_DPA', 04.10.2018 | Part Grant | Text outside the scope of the Request has been redacted. | | |
| 34, 35 | Internal DEASP emails between R Sen and D Henry, 04.10.2018 | Grant | | | |
| 36, 37 | Internal DEASP emails between C Lawler and R Sen, 04.10.2018 | Grant | | | |
| 38, 39 | Internal DEASP emails between R Sen And D Henry, 08.10.2018 | Grant | | | |
| * | Reasons for Exemptions: Section 29(1) provides for exemptions in relation to the release of records containing matter relating to the deliberative process of a public body. Section 30(1)(b) and (c) provides for exemptions in relation to the release of records that would have an adverse effect on an FOI body in performing its functions or would disclose positions on plans in relation to negotiations. This exemption is being applied parts of records that contain information on the processes/functions of another FOI body (Department of Justice & Equality) which fall under these exemptions. | | | | |
| ** | Public Interest Consideration for these Records: I consider that the release of the information redacted under Sections 29 and 30 could have a significant adverse effect on the performance of an FOI body or on its negotiations, carried out by or on behalf of the Government by the FOI body. Therefore, it is not in the public interest to release these records in full. Redactions under these Sections are minor, with the vast majority of records being released with no redactions apart from redactions on text that refers to others issues or Departmental schemes and is, therefore, outside the scope of the request. | | | | |

Karen Byrne

From: Roshin Sen
Sent: 03 July 2018 18:47
To: Ciaran Lawler
Subject: Direct provision allowance

Ciarán,

I keep forgetting to mention (you probably know already) that John C told Mary P to submit a Budget proposal re: increasing DPA in line with the McMahon report recommendations. I sent her the template last Thursday so we should get one soon enough.

Roshin

Sent from my Windows Phone

This item has been archived by HP Consolidated Archive. [View](#) [Restore](#)

Karen Byrne

From: Des Henry
Sent: 05 July 2018 17:41
To: Ciaran Lawler
Cc: John Conlon; Mary Pracht
Subject: Budget Proposal - increase in DPA Rates

Ciaran,

As discussed, please see the attached proposal for Budget 2019.

We will need to engage with DJE before implementation, if it is successful.

Thanks,

Des

Des Henry
Principal Officer
Supplementary Welfare Allowance Policy Unit

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
Oifig Scirbhísí Leas Shóisialta Sligigh, Bothar Choláiste, Sligeach, F91 T384.
Social Welfare Services Office Sligo, College Road, Sligo, F91 T384.

This item has been archived by HP Consolidated Archive. [View](#) [Restore](#)

Section: SWA Policy

Proposal: Increase the rate of Daily Expenses Allowance (formerly known as Direct Provision Allowance).

Cost: Option 1: €4.0 million in the full year of 2019.

Option 2: €4.5 million in the full year of 2019.

Number Affected in 2019: 3,700 adults (with 1,560 dependent children)

Implementation Date: 1 January 2019

1. Brief description of measure

Daily Expenses Allowance (DEA) is the new name for Direct Provision Allowance (DPA). It is currently paid at the rate of €21.60 in respect of each adult and child protection seeker who reside in the system of direct provision.

This proposal contains two options to increase the rates of DEA:

1. Increase the rates of DEA to €38.74 for adults and €29.80 for children (i.e. to the rates recommended in the McMahon Report on Improvements to the Protection Process).
2. Increase the rates of DEA to €40.85 for adults and €31.80 for children (i.e. to take account of recent social welfare increases since the McMahon recommendations).

2. Policy rationale supporting the measure

DPA was introduced in 2000 at the weekly rate of IR£15 (€19.10) per adult and IR£7.50 (€9.60) per child. The adult rate remained unchanged until 2017 when it was increased to €21.60. The child rate was increased in January 2016 by €6 per week to €15.60 and then to €21.60 in 2017.

Option 1 is based on the McMahon Report on Improvements to the Protection Process recommendation that the adult rate of DPA should be increased to €38.74. The rationale behind this recommendation was that this would reinstate the original ratio between the weekly allowance and the weekly Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA) payment. The Working Group also recommended that the weekly child rate be increased to €29.80, i.e. the child rate would be aligned with the increase for a qualified child payable under the SWA scheme. In making their recommendations the Working Group was mindful of the fact that Child Benefit is not payable in respect of these children since the introduction of the Habitual Residence Condition in 2004.

Option 2 takes into account recent increases in social welfare rates since the McMahon Report was produced and maintains the percentage ratio between the DEA and the weekly rate of SWA.

The EU (recast) Reception Conditions Directive and the transposing Regulations (S.I. 230 of 2018) came into force in Ireland on 30th June 2018. In addition to granting access to the labour market to protection applicants where no first instance recommendation on their application has been made within 9 months, the Directive and transposing Regulations place the system of Direct Provision and the allowance paid to protection seekers on a statutory basis. As a result, a number of new administrative arrangements are being introduced, including the means testing of the Daily Expenses Allowance where a person has income from employment/self-employment. Any means testing of the payment would obviously impact on the expenditure levels in 2019.

3. Expenditure in 2019 and in a full year

Option 1: an additional €4.0 million in a full year

Option 2: an additional €4.5 million in a full year

Daily Expenses/Direct Provision Allowance Direct Provision Allowance is currently being paid in respect of approximately 3,700 adults and 1,560 dependent children. Based on these numbers, the full year cost of implementing the weekly increases proposed for children and adults is some €4.0 million under Option 1 and some €4.5 million under Option 2.

These figures are based on the full rates of payment being paid to all adult recipients with no means testing. The means test under consideration will not impact on expenditure in respect of children as payments in respect of children will not be affected by the means test.

4. Number of recipients affected in 2019 and in a full year

Daily Expenses/Direct Provision Allowance is currently being paid in respect of approximately 3,700 adults and 1,560 dependent children (as of 30/6/2018).

5. Effect of the measure on recipients

Option 1 would provide a weekly increase of €17.14 for adults and €8.20 for children.

Option 2 would provide a weekly increase of €19.25 for adults and €10.20 for children.

Increasing the rate of the Daily Expenses Allowance will provide a substantial increase in disposable income enhancing people's quality of life and social inclusion. Increasing the child rate will have a positive effect on families who are protection seekers and will contribute to the reduction of poverty.

6. Does the proposal require legislation – primary and/or secondary? Please outline.

No.

The Regulation transposing the EU (recast) Reception Conditions Directive (S.I. 230 of 2018) places the DEA on a statutory basis. However, the rate of the allowance is not set out in the Regulations and changes to it will be by Government decisions.

Previous increases to the rate of Direct Provision Allowance were introduced by Government decisions following joint Memoranda to Government from the Department of Justice & Equality and this Department.

7. Are there operational (e.g. IT, staffing) implications associated with the proposal? Please outline.

No

8. Relevant Statistics

As of 30/6/2018, Daily Expenses/Direct Provision Allowance is currently being paid in respect of approximately 3,700 adults and 1,560 dependent children.

Provisional Expenditure for 2018 on DPA was almost €5 million. Some €5.62 million has been provided for the scheme for 2018.

9. Cite any recent or forthcoming policy/research publications (internal or external) referring to this scheme or policy (*include publication date)

N/A

10. Please cite any other forthcoming policy/research papers or publications under your remit during 2018 and their intended publication date

N/A

11. Any other relevant information

Any decision in relation to the rate of the Daily Expenses Allowance is subject to discussion with the Department of Justice & Equality who have policy responsibility in this area and subject to Government approval. Previous increases to the rate of Direct Provision Allowance were introduced by Government decisions following joint Memoranda to Government from the Department of Justice & Equality and this Department.

Karen Byrne

From: Ciaran Lawler
Sent: 16 July 2018 18:03
To: Jacinta Crawford
Cc: Roshin Sen; John McKeon; Anne Vaughan; Denise Duffy; Margaret Haverty; Deirdre Shanley
Subject: Budget Options list
Attachments: Budget 2019 Options List - 11.07.18.xlsx

Jacinta,

Could you give the attached to the Minister, please, in advance of our meeting at lunchtime tomorrow?

Thanks,

Ciarán

Ciarán Lawler
Principal: Budget/Finance
Dept of Employment Affairs and Social Protection Floor 4, Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Store Street, Dublin 1.
[REDACTED]

| | | | | |
|---|---|------------|------------|------------|
| 1 | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| 2 | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| 3 | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| 4 | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| 5 | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| 6 | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| 7 | <p>Daily Expenses Allowance (formerly Direct Provision Allowance) Increase the weekly Daily Expenses Allowance rate from €21.60 per week to €38.74 for adults and €29.80 for children, as recommended in the McMahon Report on Improvements to the Protection Process [Implementation Date: 2019].</p> | | | |
| 8 | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| 9 | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| <p>The total cost of increasing the rate of DEA to €40.85 to adults and €31.80 for children (i.e to take account of recent social welfare increases since the McMahon recommendations) would be €4.1m for the full year 2019.</p> | | | | |

Karen Byrne

From: Ciaran Lawler
Sent: 17 September 2018 19:18
To: Jacinta Crawford
Cc: John McKeon; Anne Vaughan; Deirdre Shanley; Roshin Sen; Denise Duffy
Subject: Notes for Minister - Budget meeting tomorrow
Attachments: Budget 2019 Options List - 17.09.118.xlsx; Illustrative Budget package 17.09.18.xlsx; Responses to queries on Budget options - September 2018.doc; 2018.09.17 SIA OFP+JST Dis.doc; 2018.09.17 SIA QCI only.doc; 2018.09.17 SIA QCI+OFP+JST.doc

Jacinta,

In advance of our meeting with the Minister tomorrow, please see attached:

1. Revised (long) Budget options list
2. Illustrative Budget package

3. [REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED]

Regards,

Ciarán

Ciarán Lawler
Principal, Budget / Estimates / EU Funding & Compliance

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

Uirlár 4, Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Sráid an Stórais, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 WY03
Floor 4, Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Store Street, Dublin 1, D01 WY03



Budget 2019 Package - Illustrative
Full year
**2019
Full year**
**26th March
40 weeks**
**29th April
36 weeks**
€m
€m
€m
€m

5

(Implementation: Q4, 2019)
Daily Expenses Allowance (formerly Direct Provision Allowance)

4.0

4.0

3.1

2.8

Increase the weekly Daily Expenses Allowance rate from €21.60 per week to €38.74 for adults and €29.80 for children
(Implementation: varying dates 2019)

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|-----|-----|--|--|
| | | | | | | |
| 7 | Daily Expenses Allowance (formerly Direct Provision Allowance) | | | | | |
| Increase the weekly Daily Expenses Allowance rate from €21.60 per week to €38.74 for adults and €29.80 for children, as recommended in the McMahon Report on Improvements to the Protection Process | | | 4.0 | 4.0 | The total cost of increasing the rate of DEA to €40.85 to adults and €31.80 for children (i.e to take account of recent social welfare increases since the McMahon recommendations) would be €4.5m for the full year 2019. This measure would require consultation with D/Justice. | |
| [Implementation Date: 2019]. | | | | | | |

Karen Byrne

From: Ciaran Lawler
Sent: 27 September 2018 08:14
To: Deirdre Shanley
Subject: RE: Proposal to increase DPA Rate in line with McMahon Report

Deirdre,

We'll see what John/Des suggest, but possible alternatives are to go half way to McMahon recommendation or increase by €5 if there is a general round of increases.

C

From: Deirdre Shanley
Sent: 27/09/2018 07:11
To: John Conlon; Des Henry
Cc: Ciaran Lawler; Roshin Sen
Subject: FW: Proposal to increase DPA Rate in line with McMahon Report

12

John, Des

On the basis of the response from DJE, what is your view on the budget proposal at this point?

Regards

Deirdre

Deirdre Shanley
 Chief Financial Officer

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
 Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Sráid an Stórais, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 WY03
 Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Store Street, Dublin 1, D01 WY03

I am a designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015

From: Des Henry
Sent: 26 September 2018 07:41
To: Ciaran Lawler
Cc: John Conlon
Subject: RE: Proposal to increase DPA Rate in line with McMahon Report

11

Ciaran,

Please note I advised Brain Merriman about the proposal & from a DJE perspective they consider the following:

'the Mc Mahon rates were recommended at a time when there was a total ban on accessing work. We (Ireland) now have the most generous access, including that children will retain their allowances regardless of the parents earnings.'

I expect that the Minister for Justice will be briefed by DJE officials and he is likely to discuss with MEASP.

Give me a call if you wish to discuss.

Thanks,

Des

Des Henry
Principal Officer
Supplementary Welfare Allowance Policy Unit

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

Oifig Seirbhísí Leas Shóisialta Sligigh, Bothar an Choláiste, Sligeach, F91 T384.
Social Welfare Services Office Sligo, College Road, Sligo, F91 T384.



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta
agus Coimirce Sóisialaí**
Department of Employment Affairs
and Social Protection

From: Ciaran Lawler
Sent: 25 September 2018 16:45
To: Des Henry
Cc: John Conlon
Subject: RE: Proposal to increase DPA Rate in line with McMahon Report

10

Des,

The proposal to increase the rate to the McMahon report recommendation remains on the list of Budget options at this point. We can't say at this stage whether it will still be there in two weeks' time.

It would be usual for the scheme owner to run this by D/Justice rather than Budget section.

Any queries, please give me a call.

Regards,

Ciarán

Ciarán Lawler
Principal, Budget / Estimates / EU Funding & Compliance

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

Urlár 4, Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Sráid an Stórais, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 WY03
Floor 4, Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Store Street, Dublin 1, D01 WY03

From: Des Henry
Sent: 25 September 2018 11:50
To: Ciaran Lawler
Cc: John Conlon
Subject: Proposal to increase DPA Rate in line with McMahon Report
Importance: High

9

Ciaran,

Further to our discussion last week and the budget proposal which is being considered to increase the Direct Provision (Daily Expenses) Allowance to those residing in DJE Accommodation Centres in line with the McMahon Report i.e. from €21.80 to €38.74 for adults and €29.80 for children.

Is this likely to be included as a budget measure?

Has this been discussed with DJE Officials or are they aware of same?

If not, I think it would be useful to have their input on same.

Give me a call if you wish to discuss.

Thanks,

Des

Des Henry
Principal Officer
Supplementary Welfare Allowance Policy Unit

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

Oifig Seirbhísí Leas Shóisialta Sligigh, Bothar an Choláiste, Sligeach, F91 T384.
Social Welfare Services Office Sligo, College Road, Sligo, F91 T384.



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta
agus Coimirce Sóisialaí**
Department of Employment Affairs
and Social Protection

Karen Byrne

From: Brian P Merriman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 26 September 2018 09:53
To: Des Henry; Louise P. Sandom
Cc: Mary Pracht; Michael J. Kirrane
Subject: RE: McMahon Report Rates for those in Accommodation Centre

17

Thanks Des, coupled with the very poor take up on the right to work, [REDACTED] also needs to be considered. [REDACTED]

Regards Brian

From: Des Henry [REDACTED]
Date: 26 September 2018 at 07:22:43 GMT+1
To: Brian P Merriman <[REDACTED]> Louise P. Sandom <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Mary Pracht [REDACTED] Michael J. Kirrane <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: McMahon Report Rates for those in Accommodation Centre

16

Brian,

All of the issues you identify have been considered and highlighted. As I've said, I'm only making you aware of same & it is by no means certain that this will be included as part of the budget package. Will keep you informed of developments.

Thanks,

Des

Des Henry
Principal Officer
Supplementary Welfare Allowance Policy Unit

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

Oifig Seirbhísí Leas Shóisialta Sligh, Bothar an Choláiste, Sligeach, F91 T384.
Social Welfare Services Office Sligo, College Road, Sligo, F91 T384.

[REDACTED]



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta
agus Coimirce Sóisialaí**
Department of Employment Affairs
and Social Protection

From: Brian P Merriman [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 September 2018 20:48
To: Des Henry; Louise P. Sandom

Mary Pracht; Michael J. Kirrane

Subject: Re: McMahon Report Rates for those in Accommodation Centre

Hi Des the Mc Mahon rates were recommended at a time when there was a total ban on accessing work. We now have the most generous access, including that children will retain their allowances regardless of the parents earnings. Have you considered such a radical change of economic circumstances and did the NGO submissions point that out? The final implementation report on Mc Mahon was completed over a year ago. Regards Brian

From: Des Henry [REDACTED]
Date: 25 September 2018 at 17:20:57 IST
To: Brian P Merriman [REDACTED] Louise P. Sandom [REDACTED]
Cc: Mary Pracht [REDACTED]
Subject: McMahon Report Rates for those in Accommodation Centre

Brian,

Please note that following submissions from a number of NGOs and advocacy groups, the Minister is considering applying the rates recommended by the McMahon Report (i.e. €38.74 for adults and €29.80 for children) in the context of the budget for those residing in direct provision/EROC accommodation. While it is by no means certain that such an announcement will be made, it is important that you are made aware of same.

Please revert to me if you wish to discuss.

Thanks,

Des

Des Henry
 Principal Officer
 Supplementary Welfare Allowance Policy Unit

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
 Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

Oifig Seirbhísí Leas Shóisialta Sligigh, Bothar an Choláiste, Sligeach, F91 T384.
 Social Welfare Services Office Sligo, College Road, Sligo, F91 T384.



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta
 agus Coimirce Sóisialaí**
**Department of Employment Affairs
 and Social Protection**

 This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager. While the Department takes measures to secure the data transferred via Email, transmission cannot be guaranteed to be secure, error-free or routed correctly once it leaves the Department. In communicating with the Department by Email, the customer accepts this risk and the Department does not accept liability which may arise as a result of Email transmission.

Karen Byrne

From: Des Henry
Sent: 27 September 2018 08:59
To: Deirdre Shanley; John Conlon
Cc: Ciaran Lawler; Roshin Sen
Subject: RE: Proposal to increase DPA Rate in line with McMahon Report

Deirdre, John,

I attended the Reception and Integration Agency (RIA) – High Level Group Meeting in Dublin yesterday.

[REDACTED] By the end of September, it is anticipated that more asylum seekers will have presented than for the whole of 2017. 2,927 presented in 2017, by mid-September 2,589 had presented. The majority of those presenting in 2017 (917) presented in the final quarter, so potentially up to 1,200 new presentations could be received in the final quarter of 2018.

RIA currently has 5,837 beds in accommodation centres. [REDACTED]

There are 600+ individuals who have been granted residency status living in the accommodation centres and RIA are working with several housing agencies to try to source accommodation for these families and individuals. [REDACTED]

DJE have responsibility for Direct Provision policy and I believe that if an announcement to increase the rates is being considered in the context of the budget, it will require consultation between our own Minister and the Minister for Justice and Equality and possibly be a joint statement/announcement.

For your consideration, please.

Please revert to me with any queries.

Thanks,

Des

Des Henry
 Principal Officer
 Supplementary Welfare Allowance Policy Unit

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
 Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

Oifig Seirbhísí Leas Shóisialta Sligigh, Bothar an Choláiste, Sligeach, F91 T384.
 Social Welfare Services Office Sligo, College Road, Sligo, F91 T384.

Karen Byrne

From: Ciaran Lawler
Sent: 27 September 2018 13:56
To: Denise Duffy
Cc: Jacinta Crawford; Deirdre Shanley; Roshin Sen; John McKeon; Anne Vaughan
Subject: Revised Budget package
Attachments: Budget 2019 package 27.09.18.xlsx

Denise,

Further to your phone call earlier, please see attached revised Budget options list. The revised list now includes:

[REDACTED]

You might let me know when I can send this at official level to DPER. It would be preferable that we all have the same options list for the bilateral meeting.

Regards,

Ciarán

Ciarán Lawler
Principal, Budget / Estimates / EU Funding & Compliance

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

Urlár 4, Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Sráid an Stórais, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 WY03
Floor 4, Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Store Street, Dublin 1, D01 WY03

[REDACTED]

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Budget 2019 Package 27.09.18 | Cost in 2019 | Full year |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----------|

| | | | |
|---|---|------|------|
| 6 | [Implementation:2019] Daily Expenses Allowance (formerly Direct Provision Allowance) <i>Increase the weekly Daily Expenses Allowance rate from €21.60 per week to €38.74 for adults and €29.80 for children</i> [Implementation Date: January 2019] | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| | | 14.0 | 14.0 |

Karen Byrne

From: Ciaran Lawler
Sent: 28 September 2018 16:10
To: Jacinta Crawford
Cc: John McKeon; Deirdre Shanley; Anne Vaughan; Roshin Sen; Denise Duffy
Subject: Illustrative Budget options for Minister
Attachments: Budget 2019 - various dates - 28.09.18.xlsx

Jacinta,

Please see attached for the Minister's information. The spreadsheet contains a number of tabs with various Budget options / implementation dates, following her bilateral meeting yesterday.

Regards,

Ciarán

| Budget 2019 Package A3 | Cost in 2019 | Full year |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| | €m | €m |

| | | | |
|----|---|-----|-----|
| 10 | Daily Expenses Allowance (formerly Direct Provision Allowance) <i>Increase the weekly Daily Expenses Allowance rate from €21.60 per week to €38.74 for adults and €29.80 for children</i> <i>(Implementation Date: January 2019)</i> | 4.0 | 4.0 |
|----|---|-----|-----|

Karen Byrne

From: Roshin Sen
Sent: 01 October 2018 17:20
To: Des Henry
Cc: Mary Pracht; Josephine Monaghan; Ciaran Lawler; John Conlon
Subject: Budget Brief templates
Attachments: Budget 2019 - template for DAE.docx; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Budget 2019 - DAE rate.doc

Des

Budget Day is Tuesday, 9th October and at this stage we do not have final confirmation of which, if any, measures on your side will go ahead.

Given that there is limited time to prepare Budget Brief material, I attach Budget Brief templates for two possible Budget measures in your area:

1. Increasing the weekly Daily Expense Allowance in line with the McMahon report recommendation; and
2. [REDACTED]

I also attach the DAE proposal that had been sent earlier this year (to be aligned with the attached Budget template).

I would be grateful if these templates could be completed and returned by close of business, Thursday 4th October.

As with all Budget material, this should be kept confidential. I will be in touch as soon as we receive final confirmation or any additional updates in relation to these measures.

Any queries, please feel free to contact myself or Ciarán.

Thanks and kind regards

Roshin

Roshin Sen
Assistant Principal, Budget and Means Policy

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Sráid Stórais, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D 01 WY03.
Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Store Street, D. 1, D01 WY03.

[REDACTED]

Section:

Measure: Increase the rate of Daily Expenses Allowance (formerly known as Direct Provision Allowance).

Cost: €4 million in 2019 and in a full year.

Number Affected in 2019: XX recipients (est.)

Implementation Date:

1. Brief description of measure
2. Policy rationale supporting the measure
3. Expenditure in 2019 and in a full year
4. Number of recipients affected in 2019 and in a full year
5. Effect of the measure on recipients
6. Background scheme information including qualification criteria
7. Brief history of the scheme, including historical rates of payment (or equivalent)
8. Comparable UK/Northern Ireland schemes and payment rates and information on comparable schemes in other EU States
9. Relevant Statistics
10. Any other relevant information

Section: SWA Policy

Proposal: Increase the rate of Daily Expenses Allowance (formerly known as Direct Provision Allowance).

Cost: Option 1: €4.0 million in the full year of 2019.

Option 2: €4.5 million in the full year of 2019.

Number Affected in 2019: 3,700 adults (with 1,560 dependent children)

Implementation Date: 1 January 2019

1. Brief description of measure

Daily Expenses Allowance (DEA) is the new name for Direct Provision Allowance (DPA). It is currently paid at the rate of €21.60 in respect of each adult and child protection seeker who reside in the system of direct provision.

This proposal contains two options to increase the rates of DEA:

1. Increase the rates of DEA to €38.74 for adults and €29.80 for children (i.e. to the rates recommended in the McMahon Report on Improvements to the Protection Process).
2. Increase the rates of DEA to €40.85 for adults and €31.80 for children (i.e. to take account of recent social welfare increases since the McMahon recommendations).

2. Policy rationale supporting the measure

DPA was introduced in 2000 at the weekly rate of IR£15 (€19.10) per adult and IR£7.50 (€9.60) per child. The adult rate remained unchanged until 2017 when it was increased to €21.60. The child rate was increased in January 2016 by €6 per week to €15.60 and then to €21.60 in 2017.

Option 1 is based on the McMahon Report on Improvements to the Protection Process recommendation that the adult rate of DPA should be increased to €38.74. The rationale behind this recommendation was that this would reinstate the original ratio between the weekly allowance and the weekly Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA) payment. The Working Group also recommended that the weekly child rate be increased to €29.80, i.e. the child rate would be aligned with the increase for a qualified child payable under the SWA scheme. In making their recommendations the Working Group was mindful of the fact that Child Benefit is not payable in respect of these children since the introduction of the Habitual Residence Condition in 2004.

Option 2 takes into account recent increases in social welfare rates since the McMahon Report was produced and maintains the percentage ratio between the DEA and the weekly rate of SWA.

The EU (recast) Reception Conditions Directive and the transposing Regulations (S.I. 230 of 2018) came into force in Ireland on 30th June 2018. In addition to granting access to the labour market to protection applicants where no first instance recommendation on their application has been made within 9 months, the Directive and transposing Regulations place the system of Direct Provision and the allowance paid to protection seekers on a statutory basis. As a result, a number of new administrative arrangements are being introduced, including the means testing of the Daily Expenses Allowance where a person has income from employment/self-employment. Any means testing of the payment would obviously impact on the expenditure levels in 2019.

3. Expenditure in 2019 and in a full year

Option 1: an additional €4.0 million in a full year

Option 2: an additional €4.5 million in a full year

Daily Expenses/Direct Provision Allowance Direct Provision Allowance is currently being paid in respect of approximately 3,700 adults and 1,560 dependent children. Based on these numbers, the full year cost of implementing the weekly increases proposed for children and adults is some €4.0 million under Option 1 and some €4.5 million under Option 2.

These figures are based on the full rates of payment being paid to all adult recipients with no means testing. The means test under consideration will not impact on expenditure in respect of children as payments in respect of children will not be affected by the means test.

4. Number of recipients affected in 2019 and in a full year

Daily Expenses/Direct Provision Allowance is currently being paid in respect of approximately 3,700 adults and 1,560 dependent children (as of 30/6/2018).

5. Effect of the measure on recipients

Option 1 would provide a weekly increase of €17.14 for adults and €8.20 for children.

Option 2 would provide a weekly increase of €19.25 for adults and €10.20 for children.

Increasing the rate of the Daily Expenses Allowance will provide a substantial increase in disposable income enhancing people's quality of life and social inclusion. Increasing the child rate will have a positive effect on families who are protection seekers and will contribute to the reduction of poverty.

- 6. Does the proposal require legislation – primary and/or secondary? Please outline.**
No.

The Regulation transposing the EU (recast) Reception Conditions Directive (S.I. 230 of 2018) places the DEA on a statutory basis. However, the rate of the allowance is not set out in the Regulations and changes to it will be by Government decisions.

Previous increases to the rate of Direct Provision Allowance were introduced by Government decisions following joint Memoranda to Government from the Department of Justice & Equality and this Department.

- 7. Are there operational (e.g. IT, staffing) implications associated with the proposal? Please outline.**
No

8. Relevant Statistics

As of 30/6/2018, Daily Expenses/Direct Provision Allowance is currently being paid in respect of approximately 3,700 adults and 1,560 dependent children.

Provisional Expenditure for 2018 on DPA was almost €5 million. Some €5.62 million has been provided for the scheme for 2018.

- 9. Cite any recent or forthcoming policy/research publications (internal or external) referring to this scheme or policy (*include publication date)**
N/A

- 10. Please cite any other forthcoming policy/research papers or publications under your remit during 2018 and their intended publication date**
N/A

11. Any other relevant information

Any decision in relation to the rate of the Daily Expenses Allowance is subject to discussion with the Department of Justice & Equality who have policy responsibility in this area and subject to Government approval. Previous increases to the rate of Direct Provision Allowance were introduced by Government decisions following joint Memoranda to Government from the Department of Justice & Equality and this Department.

Karen Byrne

From: Ciaran Lawler
Sent: 03 October 2018 14:36
To: John McKeon; Deirdre Shanley
Cc: Anne Vaughan; Roshin Sen
Subject: March Budget package
Attachments: Budget 2019 package 03.10.18 revised - B3.xlsx

SG,
Deirdre,

Just for info for now, attached is a March Budget package that lands just over [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Daily Expenses Allowance - €5 increase; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Regards,

Ciarán

Ciarán Lawler
Principal, Budget / Estimates / EU Funding & Compliance

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

Urlár 4, Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Sráid an Stórais, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 WY03
Floor 4, Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Store Street, Dublin 1, D01 WY03

Budget 2019 Package B3

Package for addressing poverty and social inclusion

6

Daily Expenses Allowance (formerly Direct Provision Allowance)

Increase the weekly Daily Expenses Allowance rate from €21.60 per week to €26.60 for adults and children

[Implementation Date: 25th March 2019]

Karen Byrne

From: Ciaran Lawler
Sent: 03 October 2018 20:13
To: Denise Duffy
Cc: Jacinta Crawford; Anne Vaughan; John McKeon; Roshin Sen; Deirdre Shanley
Subject: Budget 2019 package C1.xlsx
Attachments: Budget 2019 package C1.xlsx

Denise,

As just discussed with the Minister, see attached revised Budget package [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Regards,

Ciarán

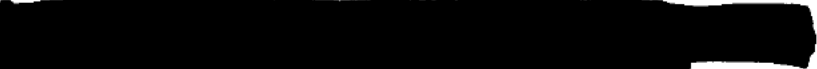

| Budget 2019 Package C1 | | Cost in 2019 €m | Full year €m |
|---|--|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Package for addressing poverty and social inclusion | | | |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----|-----|
| <small>[Implementation: 2019]</small> | | | |
| 7 | Daily Expenses Allowance (formerly Direct Provision Allowance) <i>Increase the weekly Daily Expenses Allowance rate from €21.60 per week to €38.74 for adults and €29.80 for children</i> [Implementation Date: 25th March 2019] | 3.1 | 4.0 |

Karen Byrne

From: Ciaran Lawler
Sent: 04 October 2018 13:31
To: Denise Duffy
Cc: Jacinta Crawford; John McKeon; Deirdre Shanley; Anne Vaughan; Roshin Sen
Subject: Budget package C2
Attachments: Budget 2019 package C2.xlsx

Denise,

As just discussed, see revised package with 


Regards,

Ciarán

Ciarán Lawler
Principal, Budget / Estimates / EU Funding & Compliance

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

Urlár 4, Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Sráid an Stórais, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 WY03
Floor 4, Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Store Street, Dublin 1, D01 WY03



| Budget 2019 Package C2 | | Cost in 2019 €m | Full year €m |
|---|--|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Package for addressing poverty and social inclusion | | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----|-----|
| [Implementation: 2019] | | | |
| 7 | Daily Expenses Allowance (formerly Direct Provision Allowance) <i>Increase the weekly Daily Expenses Allowance rate from €21.60 per week to €38.74 for adults and €29.80 for children</i> [Implementation Date: 25th March 2019] | 3.1 | 4.0 |

Karen Byrne

From: Des Henry
Sent: 04 October 2018 14:03
To: Roshin Sen
Cc: Mary Pracht; Josephine Monaghan; Ciaran Lawler; John Conlon
Subject: RE: Budget Brief templates
Attachments: Budget 2019 Proposal - DEA_DPA.docx; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Roshin,

As requested,

Attached please Budget Templates in respect of the following:

1. Increase in Daily Expenses Rate in line with McMahon Recommendations
2. [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED]

Please revert to me with any queries.

Thanks,

Des

Des Henry
Principal Officer
Supplementary Welfare Allowance Policy Unit

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

Ofíog Seirbhísí Leas Shóisialta Sligigh, Bothar an Choláiste, Sligeach, F91 T384.
Social Welfare Services Office Sligo, College Road, Sligo, F91 T384.



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta
agus Coimirce Sóisialaí**
Department of Employment Affairs
and Social Protection

From: Roshin Sen
Sent: 01 October 2018 17:20
To: Des Henry
Cc: Mary Pracht; Josephine Monaghan; Ciaran Lawler; John Conlon
Subject: Budget Brief templates

Des

Budget Day is Tuesday, 9th October and at this stage we do not have final confirmation of which, if any, measures on your side will go ahead.

Section: Income Support

Measure: Increase the rate of Daily Expenses Allowance (formerly known as Direct Provision Allowance).

Cost: €4 million in 2019 and in a full year.

Number Affected in 2019: 3,660 adults (plus 1,550 dependent children)

Implementation Date: 1 January 2019

1. Brief description of measure

Daily Expenses Allowance (DEA) is the new name for Direct Provision Allowance (DPA). It is currently paid at the rate of €21.60 in respect of each adult and child protection seeker who reside in the system of direct provision.

This measure proposes increasing the rates of the rates of DEA to €38.74 for adults and €29.80 for children (i.e. to the rates recommended in the McMahon Report on Improvements to the Protection Process).

2. Policy rationale supporting the measure

The McMahon Report on Improvements to the Protection Process recommendation that the adult rate of DPA should be increased to €38.74. The rationale behind this recommendation was that this would reinstate the original ratio between the weekly allowance and the rate of weekly Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA) payment at the time of the report. The Working Group also recommended that the weekly child rate be increased to €29.80, i.e. the child rate would be aligned with the increase for a qualified child payable under the SWA scheme at the time of the report. In making their recommendations the Working Group was mindful of the fact that Child Benefit is not payable in respect of these children since the introduction of the Habitual Residence Condition in 2004.

The EU (recast) Reception Conditions Directive and the transposing Regulations (S.I. 230 of 2018) came into force in Ireland on 30th June 2018. In addition to granting access to the labour market to protection applicants where no first instance recommendation on

their application has been made within 9 months, the Directive and transposing Regulations place the system of Direct Provision and the allowance paid to protection seekers on a statutory basis. As a result, a number of new administrative arrangements are being introduced, including the means testing of the Daily Expenses Allowance where a person has income from employment/self-employment. Any means testing of the payment would obviously impact on the expenditure levels in 2019.

3. Expenditure in 2019 and in a full year

Daily Expenses/Direct Provision Allowance Direct Provision Allowance is currently being paid in respect of approximately 3,660 adults and 1,550 dependent children. Based on these numbers, the full year cost of implementing the weekly increases proposed for children and adults is some €4.0 million.

These figures are based on the full rates of payment being paid to all adult recipients with no means testing. The means test under consideration will not impact on expenditure in respect of children as payments in respect of children will not be affected by the means test.

4. Number of recipients affected in 2019 and in a full year

Daily Expenses/Direct Provision Allowance is currently being paid in respect of approximately 3,660 adults and 1,550 dependent children (as of end September 2018).

5. Effect of the measure on recipients

The proposal would provide a weekly increase of €17.14 for adults and €8.20 for children. Increasing the rate of the Daily Expenses Allowance will provide a substantial increase in disposable income enhancing people's quality of life and social inclusion. Increasing the child rate will have a positive effect on families who are protection seekers and will contribute to the reduction of poverty.

6. Background scheme information including qualification criteria

Protection Seekers are offered accommodation under the system of Direct Provision operated by the Reception & Integration Agency of the Department of Justice and Equality. Protection Seekers are not obliged to accept Direct Provision and may provide

for themselves during their time in the State. However, those who accept direct provision are provided with accommodation, all food and health services together with other facilities and services designed to ensure their needs are met while seeking the protection of the State.

In addition to the Protection Seeker being provided with basic necessities and food and accommodation, a weekly allowance for incidental personal expenditure, known as Daily Expenses Allowance (DEA), is paid to Protection Seekers who reside within the system of direct provision.

7. Brief history of the scheme, including historical rates of payment (or equivalent)

DPA/DEA was introduced in 2000 at the weekly rate of IR£15 (€19.10) per adult and IR£7.50 (€9.60) per child. The adult rate remained unchanged until 2017 when it was increased to €21.60. The child rate was increased in January 2016 by €6 per week to €15.60 and then to €21.60 in 2017.

8. Comparable UK/Northern Ireland schemes and payment rates and information on comparable schemes in other EU States

N/A

9. Relevant Statistics

Provisional Expenditure for 2017 on DPA was almost €5 million. Some €5.62 million has been provided for the scheme for 2018.

10. Any other relevant information

Any decision in relation to the rate of the Daily Expenses Allowance is subject to discussion with the Department of Justice & Equality who have policy responsibility in this area and subject to Government approval. Previous increases to the rate of Direct Provision Allowance were introduced by Government decisions following joint Memoranda to Government from the Department of Justice & Equality and this Department.

Karen Byrne

From: Des Henry
Sent: 04 October 2018 15:56
To: Roshin Sen
Cc: Ciaran Lawler
Subject: RE: Budget Brief templates

Roshin,

I'll get some stats and revert to you.

In relation to the rate – I'd go with €38.80 as opposed to €38.70 (the rate suggested by McMahon was €38.74, which was 2 years ago).

Thanks,

Des

Des Henry
Principal Officer
Supplementary Welfare Allowance Policy Unit

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
 Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

Oifig Seirbhísí Leas Shóisialta Sligigh, Bothar an Choláiste, Sligeach, F91 T384.
 Social Welfare Services Office Sligo, College Road, Sligo, F91 T384.



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta
 agus Coimirce Sóisialaí**
 Department of Employment Affairs
 and Social Protection

From: Roshin Sen
Sent: 04 October 2018 15:51
To: Des Henry
Cc: Ciaran Lawler
Subject: RE: Budget Brief templates

34

Hi Des

Just went through the DEA measure for the Budget Brief. It looks good to me but would you have any stats on the number of DPA recipients over the past few years and any details of them, as the stats section seems light?

Also, just to note, given that we pay rates rounded to the nearest 10 cents, the payment for adults would have to be either €38.70 or €38.80.

Thanks
 Roshin

Karen Byrne

From: Roshin Sen
Sent: 04 October 2018 16:41
To: Ciaran Lawler
Subject: RE: DEA

Ciarán

It's €1.35 million in a full year - €1.04 million for 40 weeks, based on September 2018 DEA recipient numbers.

Roshin

From: Ciaran Lawler
Sent: 04 October 2018 16:25
To: Roshin Sen
Subject: DEA

A fiver on DEA is 1.1m in 2019?

Karen Byrne

From: Des Henry
Sent: 08 October 2018 07:32
To: Roshin Sen
Cc: Mary Pracht
Subject: RE: Daily Expense Allowance


Roshin,

Yes, that is correct.

Thanks,

Des

Des Henry PO
SWA Policy Unit
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
College Road, Sligo



From: Roshin Sen
Sent: Sunday 7 October 2018 13:40
To: Des Henry
Cc: Mary Pracht
Subject: Daily Expense Allowance

38

Des

Just confirming that the name of the scheme Daily Expenses Allowance has officially changed from Direct Provision Allowance i.e. has there been Government agreement on this? I'm asking for Estimates section who will see if they can change the name in the template for returns to DPER.

We can change in the Revised Estimates in December either.

I would be grateful if you could get back to me on this as soon as possible on Monday morning.

Thanks and kind regards,
Roshin

Roshin Sen
Assistant Principal, Budget and Means Policy

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Sráid Stórais, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D 01 WY03.
Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Store Street, D. 1, D01 WY03.

